

## Message Text

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R 220010Z MAR 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMCONSUL DANANG  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG  
USDEL JEC PARIS  
USSAGE NP  
CINCPAC  
COGARD  
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US  
SUBJECT: MARCH 21 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY CANADA REQUESTS MEETING  
OF LAOS ICC TO CONSIDER "INDEFINITE ADJOURNMENT-  
RELECTING CANADA'S BELIEF THAT RLG AND PL POLITICAL  
SETTLEMENT MAKES ICC UNNECESSARY. RLG AND PL, HOWEVER,  
SAY THEY WILL COOPERATE WITH ICC AND ASK IT TO KEEP  
WORKING (AP VIENTIANE).  
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2. GKR MIL COMMAND REPORTS 1000 TROOPS AND 20 APCS  
LAND THREE MILES EAST OF OUDONG AFTER TRIP UP TONLE  
SAP RIVER (AP, NYT). FANK OVERRUNS COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD  
AT KOMPONG LUONG IN DRIVE TO RELIEVE 1200 DEFENDERS

TRAPPED NEAR OUDONG AND TO RETAKE THE CITY (UPI, CHITRIB).

3. GVN MIL COMMAND REPORTS COMMUNISTS SWEEP OVER HAMLET OFFICE IN VINH BINH PROVINCE IN DELTA, KILL 18 DEFENDERS AND CIVILIANS (UPI, CHITRIB). 117 ARVN RANGERS FIGHT WAY THROUGH COMMUNIST LINES IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS JUNGLES, REPORT BACK TO COMMAND (UPI SAIGON). GVN REPORTS 106 COMMUNIST C-F VIOL IN PAST DAY, MOSTLY SMALL-SCALE (REUTER SAIGON).

4. GVN SUSPENDS TWICE-WEEKLY LIAISON FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH IN COMMUNIST ZONE BECAUSE VC REFUSES TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAI LAY MASSACRE OF 32 SCHOOLCHILDREN. ICCS INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT STALLED OVER GVN REFUSAL TO PERMIT VC TO TAKE PART (REUTER SAIGON). MCCOMBS (WP) REPORTS FROM CAI LAY THAT VILLAGERS ARE ANGRY OVER RANDOM SHELLING, DESCRIBES LOCAL PEOPLE BERATING ARVN SGT. FOR GVN BOMBARDMENT OF HAMLETS. MCCOMBS BELIEVES VERBAL ASSAULT DESIGNED TO SQUEEZE "SOME SORT OF COMPENSATION" FROM GVN, BUT SEES IT AS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT WAS SPONTANEOUS, BECAUSE CAI LAY WAS WHERE MORTAR ROUND -- "APPARENTLY OF CHINESE MANUFACTURE" -- HIT SCHOOL PLAYGROUND AND KILLED 32, AND BECAUSE CAI LAY EVENTS ARE CONCURRENT WITH CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF ECON AND MIL AID REQUESTS THAT COULD HAVE "PROFOUND IMPACT" ON GVN FUTURE. VC DENY RESPONSIBILITY BUT "SEEMS PROBABLE" THAT SCHOOL WAS HIT BY VC ROUND, EITHER BY MISTAKE OR AS ACT OF TERROR. CAI LAY IS SCENE OF CONTINUOUS FIGHTING AND C-F VIOLATIONS WITH INDICATIONS THAT HEAVILY-ARMED VC AND NVA OPERATE "VIGOROUSLY" IN AREA, AND "PERHAPS THOSE WHO ARGUE THAT THE US IS GIVING TOO MANY ARTILLERY SHELLS TO SVN HAVE A POINT."

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CHINA

5. US-CHINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRES. FILLET, REPORTING ON INFO HE GATHERED ABOUT PRC DURING FOUR-DAY MACAO VISIT IN CONNECTION WITH APRIL CANTON FAIR, MAINTAINS THAT CHINA'S CURRENT INTERNAL DISCORD IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON ITS RELATIONS WITH REST OF WORLD. HE LEARNED THAT ATTACKS ON LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS ARE MERELY CONTINUATION OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION, AND PRC IS PREPARING COUNTRY FOR SHOCK THAT WOULD FOLLOW MAO AND CHOU DEATHS. FILLET FORESEES NEW LEADERS EMERGING SLOWLY, WITH "RATHER ORDERLY" TRANSITION. US BUSINESS REPRESENTATION AT FAIR SEEN AS ABOUT 200 -- SAME

AS LAST AUTUMN'S; NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE LIKELY UNTIL MATTER OF CHINA'S FROZEN ASSETS RESOLVED AND PRC GIVEN MFN STATUS, AND DOUBTFUL THAT US BUSINESSMEN WILL GET SAME OPPORTUNITIES IN CHINA AS JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN UNTIL TRADE QUESTION SETTLED. FILLET HOLDS THAT FULL SINO-US DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED UNTIL ASSETS AND TRADE PROBLEMS WORKED

OUT, BUT HE DOUBTS THAT TAIWAN IS MAJOR PROBLEM IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS (REUTER, MARCH 20).

6. TASS SAID WEDNESDAY THAT THREE-MAN SOVIET HELICOPTER, SEEKING LAST THURSDAY TO PICK UP GRAVELY-ILL SOLDIER IN ALTAI REGION, "LOST ITS BEARINGS," STRAYED OVER CHINA BORDER, HAS NOT BEEN RETURNED, AND PEKING HAS NOT REPLIED TO REQUEST FOR RETURN OF CRAFT AND CREW (AP SUN, NYT, WP; CSM). REUTER PEKING REPORTS NO IMMEDIATE PRC COMMENT ON SOVIET STATEMENT. PEKING SPOKESMAN HANDLING QUERIES FROM FOREIGN NEWSMEN TOOK NOTE OF QUESTIONS WITHOUT OFFERING REPLY.

7. MOSCOW'S LITERATURNAYA GAZETA WEDNESDAY DESCRIBED IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN NOW SWEEPING CHINA AS "LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE FOR THE KEY POSITIONS IN THE PARTY AND STATE APPARATUS" COMPARABLE TO CULTURAL REVOLUTION. MAINTAINS "INTERNECINE STRUGGLE AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TOP" WAS INSPIRED BY "RADICAL ELEMENTS IN PEKING LEADERSHIP AGAINST MODERATE, LESS DOGMATIC WING"(AP, WP).

8. REUTER'S PEARCE, IN PEKING, CITES FORTHCOMING NYERERE VISIT TO CHINA AS MARKING "LATEST STAGE" OF PRC "DRIVE" TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH AFRICAN NATIONS. PEARCE SUGGESTS THAT AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAT RECEIVE STRONG PRC SUPPORT AND CONCERN OVER THREAT OF HEIGHTENED TENSION IN COUNTRIES BORDERING INDIAN OCEAN, RESULTING FROM INCREASED SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE, ARE LIKELY HIGH AGENDA ITEMS. OBSERVES THAT PRC RELATIONS WITH BOTH TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA HAVE BEEN FURTHER IMPROVED BY ATTITUDE OF CHINESE WORKMEN IN THOSE COUNTRIES, WHO REPORTEDLY ADOPT LOCAL LIVING STANDARDS AND SET EXAMPLE IN HARD WORK AND PASSING ON EXPERTISE TO LOCAL WORKERS. NCNA REPORTS PRC AND GUINEA-BISSAU HAVE ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL (WP).

9. NATIONAL ZOO OFFICIALS SEE RISING SIGNS THAT PANDAS WILL MATE SOON (UPI, BALTO N-A MARCH 20). NYC'S CHINATOWN TO BE SITE OF "CONFUCIUS PLAZA"; PROJECT

WILL PROVIDE MODERATE-INCOME HOUSING UNITS, HEALTH CLINIC, DAY CARE FACILITY FOR CHILDREN, SOCIAL CENTER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND OFFICE SPACE FOR CHINATOWN CIVIC GROUPS (BAKER, NYDN).

DIEGO GARCIA/AUSTRALIA

10. ADM. ZUMWALT TELLS HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE THAT US MUST HAVE INDIAN OCEAN SUPPORT BASE IF IT IS TO RETAIN INFLUENCE AND PROTECT US INTERESTS IN THAT AREA WITHOUT CRIPPLING FAR-FLUNG PACIFIC FLEET (FINNEY, NYT; GETLER, WP). CSM LONDON REPORTS "AUTHORITATIVE BRITISH SOURCE" WEDNESDAY FIRMLY DENIED PRESS SPECULATION THAT NEW LABOR GOVT. HAS SUSPENDED DIEGO GARCIA PROJECTS; INSISTED FOREIGN SEC. CALLAGHAN HAS NOT YET REVIEWED MATTER.

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11. NYT'S IAN STEWART, IN SYDNEY, SAYS US BUSINESSMEN IN AUSTRALIA HAVE BEEN SEVERELY DISAPPOINTED BY GOA IMPOSITION OF STRICT OWNERSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ON PROPOSED W. AUSTRALIA JOINT MINING VENTURE, ACCORDING OFFICIAL OF AMERICAN C OF C IN AUSTRALIA. STATES THAT ALSO DISAPPOINTING WAS GOA REFUSAL TO WAIVE CERTAIN DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS -- SO MUCH SO, THAT PROJECT'S FUTURE IS CONSIDERED BY SOME OFFICIALS TO BE IN DOUBT. REYNOLDS METALS RESTATED WEDNESDAY ITS INTEREST IN PROPOSED AUSSIE BAUXITE-REFINING FACILITY, DESPITE OWNERSHIP AND DEPOSIT CONDITIONS (NYT).

12. WP NOTES LAT REPORT THAT GOA HAS INITIATED CONTACTS WITH PYONGYANG IN MOVE LIKELY LEAD TO DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF NK BY YEAR'S END. GOA REPORTEDLY HAS ASSURED SEOUL THAT RECOGNITION OF NK WOULD NOT MEAN DOWNGRADING OF GOA-ROK RELATIONS.

13. WP'S JACK ANDERSON SAYS AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES FOR MORE THAN A YEAR HAVE PLEADED WITH INTERIOR DEPT. TO PLACE THREE KANGAROO SPECIES ON ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST, WHICH WOULD CLOSE HUGE US MARKET TO IMPORTATION OF THE SKINS. BUT INTERIOR "RETREATED FROM ITS TOUGH PROTECTIONIST STANCE" AFTER FORMER ASSISTANT SEC. EDWARDS, WHO WAS HIRED BY MAJOR KANGAROO HIDE IMPORTER TO BLOCK ACTION, CLOSETED HIMSELF LAST YEAR WITH ASSISTANT SEC. REED. MEANWHILE, SLAUGHTER CONTINUES IN BELIEF THAT US DEMAND FOR VALUABLE SKINS WILL EVENTUALLY FORCE GOA TO LIFT ITS OWN YEAR-OLD BAN ON EXPORTATION OF KANGAROO PRODUCTS.

JAPAN

14. WP'S OBERDORFER, IN TOKYO, FINDS JAPAN AND SOVIET PUSHING AHEAD WITH SIBERIAN OIL AND GAS NEGOTIATIONS, DESPITE SUDDEN BAN ON EX-IM BANK CREDITS OF US. JAPANESE STILL HOPING FOR US PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT, AND HOPE OF BOTH JAPANESE AND US PARTICIPANTS IS THAT EX-IM BAN ON SOVIET DEALS WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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BE SHORT-LIVED AND THAT CONGRESS EVENTUALLY WILL KILL SIMILAR PROVISIO PENDING IN FORIEGN TRADE BILL.

BURMA

15. SUN RANGOON DISPATCH REPORTS GUB'S WOOING OF FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN HOPE OF REVIVING CRUMBLING BURMESE ECONOMY. NOTES NE WIN REGIME "ACKNOWLEDGES ITS ECONOMIC FAILURES WITH SOMEWHAT DISARMING CANDOR," AND CITES PLANNING AND FINANCE MINISTRY'S REPORT TO NEW PEOPLES ASSEMBLY FREELY ADMITTING "BURMESE WAY" HAS FAILED TO LIFT LIVING STANDARDS AND LISTING "INEFFECTIVENESS" IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ECON PLANS AS CAUSE.

16. GUB GRANTS AMNESTY TO ALL INSURGENTS WHO SURRENDER BEFORE JUNE 16, PROVIDED THEY ARE NOT GUILTY OF MURDER OR RAPE (AFP, WP).  
COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHINA

17. IN THIRD OF SERIES ON SINO-SOVIET RIFT, (S- N MARCH 20), BRADSHER NOTES THAT CHINESE HAVE NOT CALLED DIRECTLY FOR REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA BUT HAVE ENCOURAGED REGIONAL SEPARATISM. OVERALL SITUATION AS VIEWED BY PEKING IS ONE OF HOSTILE RELATIONSHIP TEMPERED BY NEED TO AVOID ARMED CLASHES THROUGH BEING STRONG AND DETERMINED; SOME VISITORS TO CHINA TOLD THAT ANY SIGN OF WEAKNESS WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY SOVIETS. 1969 USSURI CLASHES CITED AS EXAMPLE OF NEED FOR FIRM REBUFF TO SOVIET AGGRESSIVENESS. SINCE THEN, BORDER TALKS WHICH HALTED CLASHES HAVE GOTTEN NOWHERE AND PEKING FEELS MOSCOW DOES NOT WANT SETTLEMENT, BECAUSE AN AGREEMENT WOULD BASICALLY RATIFY PRESENT BOUNDARY. PEKING OFFICIALS THINK AREAS IN IMMEDIATE DISPUTE SEEM LESS IMPORTANT

TO MOSCOW THAN KEEPING UP PRESSURE ON CHINA. BY LEAVING QUESTION OPEN, SOVIETS MIGHT HOPE TO GAIN GREATER BENEFIT IN FUTURE, PERHAPS WHEN MAO'S DEATH

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CREATES NEW POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHINA. CHINESE ARE PUSHING DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR MISSILES, AND BELIEVED NOW TO HAVE IRBM'S THAT MIGHT REACH AS FAR AS MOSCOW. BRADSHER NOTES THAT PRC IS WILLING TO DO BUSINESS WITH MOSCOW WHEN NECESSARY; 1972 TRADE SHOT UP TO MORE THAN FIVE TIMES 1970 LEVEL; 1973 TRADE REMAINED FAIRLY HIGH BY RECENT STANDARDS - ALTHOUGH A PITTANCE COMPARED WITH PRC TRADE WITH JAPAN AND EUROPE. FEELING IN PEKING THAT USSR TRIED DURING 1950S TO TURN CHINA INTO SATELLITE BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY HAS NEVER LOST ITS SOUR TASTE; CHINESE ARE DETERMINED NOT TO GET TOO CLOSELY TIED TO SOVIET TRADE AGAIN.

18. ISAAC REHERT (SUN) REPORTS INTERVIEW WITH DR. VIRGINIA LI WANG, OF DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICE, WHO TOOK FIVE-WEEK TOUR AS PART OF TEAM OF AMERICAN SPECIALISTS THROUGH PRC, VISITING HOSPITALS AND COMMUNES, STUDYING CHINESE HEALTH SERVICES. ONE OF HER MOST MOVING IMPRESSIONS WAS OF "BAREFOOT DOCTORS," USED BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MEDICAL PERSONNEL. BAREFOOT DOCTORS EMPHASIZE DISEASE PREVENTION, SANITATION, IMMUNIZATION, PROPER DIET AND EXERCISE; THEY TREAT FOR REAL DISEASES BUT ARE "STRONGLY IMBUE WITH THE IMPERATIVE TO REFER PATIENTS WITH DISEASE ON TO 'REAL' 'DOCTORS'". DR. WANG THINKS SYSTEM HAS APPLICATION IN US, WHERE DOCTORS ARE OVERTRAINED AND SKILLS UNDERUSED FOR MOST OF THEIR DAILY PRACTICE. STUDY GROUP DID FILM DOCUMENTARY ON SUBJECT AVAILABLE FROM STANFORD U.

19. IN LETTER TO NYT EDITOR, HONG YUNG LEE (AFFLIATION UNSPECIFIED) OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA INTERPRETS CURRENT PRC POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST GPCR BACKDROP, WHEREIN RED GUARDS SPLIT INTO CONSERVATIVE AND RADICAL FACTIONS OVER QUESTION OF PRED FEGES ENJOYEON, BY OFFICIALS. PLA GENERALLY SUPPORTED FORMER FACTION, MANY OF WHOM WERE CHILDREN OF PLA LEADERS. AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL, WHERE PLA ENTRENCHED ITSELF AT END OF GPCR, CONSERVATIVE RED GUARDS EMERGED AS UNCLASSIFIED

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VICTORS IN CONFLICT WITH RADICAL GROUP WHICH CHIANG CHING SUPPORTED. AFTER JULY 1967 WUHAN INCIDENT, CHOU, DESPITE EARLIER MODERATE POSITION, PERSONALLY PROTECTED CHIANG CHING FROM CONSERVATIVE RED GUARD

AND PLA ATTACK. THUS, CHOU FORMED COALITION WITH  
CHIANG CHING'S RADICALS AGAINST PLA LEADERSHIP  
HEADED BY LIN PIAO. COALITION LATER PURGED LIN  
AND STILL GOVERNS CHINA. PRECARIOUS THOUGH COALITION  
MIGHT BE, RADICALS HAVE COMMON CAUSE WITH CHOU  
AGAINST PLA LEADERSHIP, WHOSE STRENGTH LIES IN  
PROVINCES RATHER THAN IN CAPITAL. LIN'S DOWN

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